*Salvation Voyage Publication*

# KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP (PT 1)
# THE BEGINNING

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The teaching of stewardship in God's kingdom undergirds all aspects of the Christian's life and pursuit. It starts of with a clear understanding of who we are, what has been bequeathed unto us. But more importantly, it is rooted in a firm understanding to the big question of why.

Man was created and marked the completion of creation. In Genesis chapter 2, the narration says, *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished.." and "...God rested from all His works.." (Genesis 2:2-3)* These are two profound truths we must pay attention to. It is a transition, we see—firstly, the completion of creation, and secondly the sovereign declaration of the seventh day as God's rest. We must however establish a salient part of the narration. It says..."*God rested...from all His works*"... This gives us an important distinction from the fundamental understanding we have about rest. Well contrary to common understanding, God rested not from exhaustion, or stress. Elohim rested from completion. The rest of God was grounded in the completion of creation, but more so it was not declared until the appearance of man. In deeper details, the backdrop we have is that God declares rest when the heir of creation was created, man, created in his image and likeness. A system predated the coming of man, a system that needed to be sustained. That needed a steward. This steward was man.

Thus, we see deeper details of the imagery as a retirement service in which man becomes the governor in the newly established realm. One of the reasons for which man needed to bear the image and likeness of God was to authenticate his governorship over creation. It was for man to reflect God's authority. In that, man has no authority except he is first submitted to God.

So then, in the kingdom of God, man is essentially a steward who must be found faithful. *(1 Corinthians 4:1-2).* In the new creation, that is the regeneration, man is restored to this place. And now, his stewardship demands a consciousness of the return of his master. The blessed hope demands faithfulness because it is not just hope of complete redemption but a day of accountability. It is in no wise coincidence that the Lord's second advent is always tied to faithfulness. Faithful stewardship is the truest path to survive the day of reckoning. At the heart of the matter, the child of God must understand that we are

*"...stewards of the mysteries of God.." (1 Corinthians 4:1)* and in a broader sense the Church is *"...The pillar and ground of truth..." (1 Timothy 3:15).* How we handle truth, communicate truth and respond to God's truth is proof of the level of our stewardship. Have we known this well enough? That much as postmodernism is is a discord of absolute truth, we owe it to God to ensure that truth is shared because in God's kingdom, truth is not relative, but absolute and the His Church is the household of truth in the earth.

It is by scripture proven absurdity to plan our lives outside the spectrum of kingdom stewardship. If you envision a career, marriage, movement that is not an offshoot of this, your pursuit becomes an aberration from the standard of the kingdom. It is the heart of the matter— *Ask why in the light of the kingdom? Ask why in the light of God's will? Why should I pray? Why am I to choose this path?* This is the true heart of kingdom stewardship; because you are not an owner but a steward.

May the LORD furnish His counsel upon our hearts and may his word be settled there as it is in heaven. Amen!